

Labor as the Area Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

Throughout his career Gene Standifer has been a great friend to his neighbors in the Kansas City community. He has served as Chairman of the Board for the East Area Community Coalition, President of the Central Citizens Crusade Against Crime, Board Member for the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime and the Urban League of Kansas City, and he is a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Gene Standifer was appointed to Commissioner of the Kansas City, Missouri Election Board by Governor Mel Carnahan in 1993. The Kansas City Election Board governance is an essential component to every election that takes place in our city. The Election Board ensures that the election process is fair and accessible to all citizens by providing the opportunity to register to vote, receive absentee ballots, have access to polling stations, and be informed of accurate election results. As Commissioner of the Kansas City Election Board, Gene Standifer has served in a dedicated, professional capacity that has earned him the respect and friendship of his peers and the members of the Kansas City Area political community. He has demonstrated outstanding results through his commitment to promote the democratic process. Gene Standifer's service has been an asset for our community.

As a champion of fairness and equity throughout his professional career, Gene embodies the essence of inclusiveness. He has met the challenges of his life with fortitude and commitment to doing the right thing. His engulfing smile always permeates an occasion.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and the Standifer family in wishing Eugene Standifer a very Happy 75th Birthday.

**EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE  
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE  
HONORABLE BRUCE VENTO,  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM  
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to our colleague, Bruce Vento, who passed away this week. Bruce Vento was a hard working and

extremely effective Member of this body. During his long tenure in Congress, Bruce Vento emerged as a true leader on environmental issues. One of the many legacies he left America was the protection and expansion of the national park system and urban parks.

Bruce Vento represented the very best Congress had to offer. Not only was he an effective advocate on issues vitally important to our nation, he was a vigorous advocate for his district and his native state of Minnesota.

He will be missed.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. God bless Bruce Vento.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. RONNIE SHOWS**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I was away from the House on official business on Friday, October 6, 2000, and was unable to cast a recorded vote on rollcall 515.

On rollcall 515 I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 612, Waiving Points of Order Against the Conference Report on H.R. 4475, Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2001.

**ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN  
CONFIRMATION**

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the attached statement by the American Jewish Committee, which appeared in The New York Times on October 10, 2000.

**ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEACE**

After the dead have been buried, the sirens silenced, and the rubble swept from streets where rioters rampaged, what lessons will have been learned from these recent days of bloody confrontation between Palestinians and Israelis?

Two are essential: When mobs are incited to violence by Palestinian media and political and religious leaders, chaos ensues. And when Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation breaks down because Palestinian police

and militiamen join in the mayhem and turn their guns on Israelis, the level of conflict crosses a terrible threshold, and the toll of suffering soars.

We grieve for the victims of the senseless violence that has erupted in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. We pray for the safe return of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah marauders who stole across the international border from Lebanon.

We reel from the desecration and of destruction of Joseph's Tomb, a holy place, on the Sabbath, by a Palestinian mob and the murder of a pious Jew trying to save sacred Torah scrolls.

We yearn for the peace that will end for both peoples this cycle of needless pain.

With Israel and the Palestinian tantalizingly close to agreement in talks aimed at resolving their bitter conflict, these days of violence fomented by the Palestinians needn't have happened.

Innocent blood needn't have been spilled.

It wouldn't have—if Palestinian political and religious leaders had not deliberately overblown a visit by an Israel politician to Jerusalem's Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site, and launched a furious campaign of attacks on Israeli civilians and soldiers.

It wouldn't have—if a sermon during Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa mosque hadn't called on the Muslim faithful to "eradicate the Jews from Palestine" provoking assaults on Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall and eliciting a defensive response by Israel.

It wouldn't have—if the Palestinian Authority hadn't emptied its schools, where Israelis' status as the enemy is continually taught, so that children could be bused directly to confrontations with Israeli forces and into harm's way.

It wouldn't have—if Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat's Fatah lieutenants in Gaza and the West Bank hadn't ordered waves of armed strikes by paramilitary forces against Israeli targets.

It wouldn't have—if Palestinian Authority radio and television hadn't bombarded the airwaves day after day with calls to rise up against Israel.

Finally, the conflict that engulfed Israelis and Palestinians wouldn't have happened if Chairman Arafat had assumed that responsibility of leadership and acted to calm rather than inflame his people.

In the end, there can be no other path for Israel and Palestinians than the path of negotiated peace, based on compromise and the need to bring their conflict to an end.

Acceptable alternatives simply do not exist. For the Palestinians and for Arab leadership across the Middle East, there is no choice but to grasp the long-outstretched hand of Israel, and assuming responsibility for peace.